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PROGRESS OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN USSR REPUBLICS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

While considerable progress has been reported in Soviet rural electrification during the postwar years, Bashkir ASSR, Belorussian SSR, Kazakh SSR, Uzbek SSR, and Kirgiz SSR are still lagging. In 1940, the Soviet Union had more than 7,000 rural electric power stations with a total capacity of over 275,000 kilowatts. During the first postwar year alone, 600 rural hydroelectric and 900 steam-electric power stations were built and put into operation (1) and by 1947 Soviet agriculture received 784 million kilowatt-hours of electric power, whereas in 1937 the output was only 330 million kilowatt-hours.(2)

Thousands of rural electric power stations were constructed during the postwar years (3), and by the end of 1950 the total capacity of the rural electric power stations in USSR reached a level 2.8 times higher than in 1940. During the same period the number of electrified kolkhozes increased three times.(4) Great help in the construction of kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations was given by the Polytechnic Institute imeni M. I. Kalinin, which sent 5,000 students in summer 1949 and 10,000 students in summer 1950 to work on GES construction. The institute also plans to send from 15,000 to 20,000 students during summer 1951.(5)

It is planned to build in 1951 more than 2,000 rural electric power stations (3) including about 600 small kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations located on small rivers in various regions of the USSR and scores of state rural electric stations with a capacity of 300 or 400 kilowatts each. In addition, 270 mobile portable electric power plants with a capacity of 48 kilowatts each are to be manufactured.(6)

RSFSR

In Vologda Oblast 28 new rural electric power stations will be constructed during 1951. Of the three interkolkhoz and kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations now under construction, two are nearly completed and the third one will be completed in September 1951.(7) In Kirov Oblast, 238 hydroelectric power stations which supply electric power to 500 kolkhozes have been built during the last 5 years.(8)

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In the Tatar ASSR 66 rural hydroelectric power stations were built during 1950, and of the 68 more to be built in 1951, ten stations have already been completed and put into operation by February.

In Bashkir ASSR, 679 hydroelectric stations located on various small rivers and 67 steam-electric power stations, which operate on peat, have been built during the past 10 or 15 years.(9) During the postwar period, 380 kolkhozes, 44 sovkhozes, and 71 MTS were electrified However, the extent of rural electrification in Bashkiriya is still below the minimum requirements of the kolkhozes.(10)

Dagestan ASSR has at present 60 kolkhoz hydroelectric stations in operation and 12 more stations under construction.(11) In Gor'kiy Oblast hydroelectric stations which will serve both kolkhoz and local enterprises, including Ichalkovskaya GES on the P'yana River, are under construction.(12) In the North Osetian ASSR there are at present tens of electric power plants with a total capacity of nearly 1,000 kilowatts.(13) In Kamchatka Oblast the kolkhozes, which earn much money by trapping, fishing, and hunting, will spend 12 million rubles in 1951 on construction which will include building 14 electric power stations.(14)

Lithuanian SSR

In rural Lithuania 43 steam-electric and nine hydroelectric power stations were built during the postwar years by "Selelektro" alone. During 1949 and 1950, 18 kolkhozes were completely electrified, 150 kilometers of high-tension lines installed, 50 transformer and substations built, and 300 kilometers of low-voltage lines installed. However, due to shortage of electric motors, at present, the kolkhozes do not use more than 50 percent of the capacity of the power stations.

It was decreed by the Council of Ministers Lithuanian SSR and the TsK KP(b) to built kolkhoz and state electric power stations with a total capacity of 21,000 kilowatts between 1951 and 1955. Altogether, 66 hydroelectric and seven steam-electric power stations will be built during this period; the latter are to operate on local peat. The new power stations are to be distributed as follows:

	Interkolkhoz Power Stations	State Rural Power Stations
Klaypeda Oblast	18	2
Vil'nyus Oblast	16	3
Kaynas Oblast	15	2
Shyalyaysk Oblast	14	3

During 1951, four hydroelectric and 21 steam-electric power stations are to be put into operation and two large interkolkhoz power stations are to be completed in 1952.(15)

Estonian SSR

Twenty nine rural electricpower stations with a total capacity of over 1,000 kilowatts were built during 1949 and 1950 in Estonian SSR; these supplied 200 kolkhozes, 57 sovkhozes, and 39 MTS with electric power and increased power consumption 1.7 times since 1948.(16) The Construction and Installation Department of "Glavsel'elektro" Estonian SSR plant to put into operation in 1951 six

interkolkhoz GES and to begin construction of a 100-kilowatt steam-electric power station at Ul'vi in Mustveskiy Rayon. The largest electric power station in Estonia will be the Sayesaare GES now under construction. It will supply electric power to three quarters of the consumers in the Pil'vaskiy Rayon. The hydroelectric stations in Saun'ya and Tudulinna are being now enlarged by "Glavsel'elektro."(17)

Belorussian SSR

Before the war Belorussian SSR had 140 rural electric power stations servicing 500 kolkhozes and 97 MTS. By January 1951, there were 528 power stations servicing 666 kolkhozes and 285 various rural enterprises. During the period of the postwar Five-Year Plan, the capacity of the rural power stations increased five times (18). During the first half of 1951 eight interkolkhoz hydroelectric power stations were built and put into operation and 12 more were under construction.(19) However, the plans for electrification of rural districts of Belorussia have not been fulfilled for years. During 1950, only 24 percent of the plan for building hydroelectric stations and 59 percent of the plan for electrification of kolkhozes were completed.(20)

Moldavian SSR

During the postwar years 229 rural electric power stations, including 23 hydroelectric stations, were built in Moldavian SSR.(21)

Ukraine SSR

Over 4,000 rural electric power stations have been built in the Ukraine since the war or twice as many as existed before the war.(22) Their total capacity was 200 percent of the prewar capacity.(23) In February 1951, the Ukraine had 25,000 electric motors in use for agriculture or eight times the number used before the war.(22) In 1950, 42 rural hydroelectric stations and 33 TETs serving 65 kolkhozes, 22 MTS, and 25 tractor-machine shops of sovkhozes were put into operation in Vinnitsa Oblast alone.(24)

In Dragobych Oblast, 14 kolkhozes now have their own GES and, altogether, 49 kolkhozes are electrified.(25) The new GES on the Yuzhnyy Bug River in Bratislav will serve the rayon center, 15 kolkhozes, and one MTS. Upon completion of another powerful interkolkhoz GES now under construction on the same river in Dzhulinskiy Rayon, all the kolkhozes in the rayon will be supplied with electricity.(26)

Georgian SSR

The total capacity of the rural electric power stations built in Georgian SSR in 1950 was 385 percent of the capacity of those built in 1949. Aside the rural state Zhinval'skaya GES in Dushetskiy Rayon, the following large interkolkhoz stations were put into operation in 1950: Ganakhleba GES and Kheva GES in Gul'ripshskiy Rayon, Ingurkanal GES in Gal'skiy Rayon, Makho GES in Batumskiy Rayon, Bolnisi GES in Bolnisskiy Rayon, and Khvadabuna GES in Sachkherskiy Rayon. Also, the following kolkhoz power stations were put into operation: Dilifi GES and Khulyumo GES in Bogdanovskiy Rayon, Hardevan GES in Tsalkskiy Rayon, Sasashi GES in Kvemo-Svanetskiy Rayon, and others. The Tiriponskaya GES in Goriyskiy Rayon, one of the largest rural electric power stations in the USSR, was put into operation at the end of 1950. Altogether, during 1950, 2 rayon centers, 126 kolkhozes, 18 MTS, and 7 sovkhozes were electrified, and 676 electric motors were installed.(27) At the end of 1950 the total capacity of the rural electric

power stations in the Georgian SSR was 20,000 kilowatts, and they supplied 700 kolkhozes with electricity.(28) There were altogether 170 kolkhoz, interkolkhoz, and state rural hydroelectric power stations with about 1,000 motors in use.(29)

In 1951, it is planned to put into operation electric power stations with total capacity 2.5 times greater than the capacity of those put into operation in 1950. During the first quarter of 1951 the following state rural electric power stations were completed: Kistura GES (first turbine) in Kazbegskiy Rayon, Orbeli GES in Tsagerskiy Rayon, and Khertvisi GES (first turbine) in Aspindzskiy Rayon. Other state rural hydroelectric stations to be put into operation in 1951 are: Duripshi GES in Gudautskiy Rayon, Khani GES in Mayakovskiy Rayon, Khekhvi GES (second aggregate) in Stalinirskiy Rayon, and Sulori GES in the Vanskiy Rayon. On the other hand, there are many stations in many other rayons, the construction of which is lagging behind.(27) Of the above-listed GES, the Orbeli GES has a capacity of 600 horsepower and will supply electric power to kolkhozes of the Tsagerskiy Rayon and its center, the settlement of Tsageri. The transmission network is being enlarged to include shortly after May the villages of Orbeli and Ladzhana.(30) The Sulori GES will be of 880 horsepower capacity and will serve the rayon center and nearby kolkhozes.(31) It was reported in June 1951 that the Council of Ministers Georgian SSR and the TsK KP(b) of Georgia have adopted a new plan for rural electrification. Of the 44 rural hydroelectric power stations under construction, 26 stations will be in operation before the end of 1951. The output of these 26 stations will enable to supply electric power to 60 kolkhozes, 33 MTS, and other kolkhoz enterprises.(32) It is to be noted that the capacities of the electric power stations now in operation in some rayons are utilized only 15-20 percent and in some cases even 10-15 percent. This unsatisfactory state of affairs is created by the shortage of materials and skilled personnel for the installation of facilities to deliver the electric power to the consumers. Furthermore, the lack of spare parts and materials for maintenance repairs account for breakdowns at the power stations.(29)

In the Adzhar ASSR there are 27 rural hydroelectric stations in operation supplying electric power to ten sovkhozes, 40 kolkhozes and more than 3,000 kolkhoz houses. It is planned to build eight additional large GES in 1951 - 1952.(33) The Bzhuzha GES, at present under construction within 11 kilometers of the village of Makharadze, will help to supply the power during summer and fall when the water level in the rivers of eastern and western Georgia is particularly low.(34) The South Osetian Autonomous Oblast has 50 kolkhozes which have been electrified.(35)

Armenian SSR

In 1950, 148 kolkhoz villages, eight MTS, and nine other kolkhoz enterprises were electrified in Armenian SSR and 13 rayons have electricity at present.(36) There are now five times as many electrified villages as in the first year of the postwar Five-Year Plan, and 85 percent of all kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and MTS are electrified.(37) After the completion of the 100-kilowatt GES on the Voskepar River in June 1951, the number of rural GES in Armenia rose to 30.

Kazakh SSR

In the Kazakh SSR, 1,161 rural electric power stations with a total capacity of 33,130 kilowatts have been built during the postwar years, thus supplying 1,000 kolkhozes in livestock-raising regions with electric power.(39) In Karaganda Oblast during the same period, 47 kolkhoz electric power stations were built and 300 kilometers of high-tension transmission lines installed.(40) In Semipalatinsk Oblast 12 new kolkhoz electric power stations were put into operation in 1950.(41)

The next Five-Year Plan of 1951-55 calls for the construction of kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations with a total capacity of 60,000 kilowatts and rural state hydroelectric power stations with a total capacity of 20,000 kilowatts. Of these, four state and 43 kolkhoz and interkolkhoz GES are to be put into operation in 1951. In addition the plan calls for the construction of rural steam-electric power stations operating on local fuels with a total capacity of 10,000 kilowatts.(39) Of the planned hydroelectric stations, 14 with a total capacity of 900 kilowatts are to be built in the Semipalatinsk Oblast.(41) The recently completed [June 1951] kolkhoz Charynskaya GES, with a capacity of 440 kilowatts, on the Charyn River near Chundzha village, the center of the Uygurskiy Rayon Alma-Ata Oblast, (42) together with the six previously completed GES and the two (Keneshskaya and Aktamskaya) nearing completion will enable this rayon to electrify all its kolkhozes.(43) In spite of these successes, the republic lags behind in fulfillment of the plan for production of electric power.

For instance, during the last 3 years the capacity of the rural hydroelectric power stations put into operation totaled only 6,300 kilowatts instead of the planned 30,000 kilowatts. Furthermore, the power output of the existing stations is not utilized effectively in the kolkhozes, and many stations are idle. For instance, in Alma-Ata Oblast, ten of 34 completed GES are not operated at all and 21 are being used at 15-50 percent of their total capacity. In Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, only 11.7 percent of the plan for introducing electric power in agriculture was completed, although the oblast is highly industrialized and has large hydroelectric resources. Electrification of villages in Dzhambul, Kokchetav, and Taldy-Kurgan Oblasts is also proceeding slowly.(39)

Uzbek SSR

It is estimated that rural electric power plants in Uzbek SSR operate at only 30 percent of their capacity. The kolkhozes are not utilizing electricity in agricultural production and, therefore, require very little electric power during daylight hours. Consequently, some stations are in operation only in the evening hours.(44)

In Tashkent Oblast, 200 kolkhozes were electrified during the postwar Five-Year Plan, and the total capacity of the hydroelectric stations serving agricultural needs of the oblast increased several times over 1941 capacity. As the "Oblsel'elektro" and "Uzbeksel'elektro" failed in their 1950 plans for building GES, the plan for electrifying the MTS, sovkhozes, and kolkhozes was fulfilled barely by 50 percent. The GES imeni Krupskaya in Akkurganskiy Rayon, which was to be completed in 1947, and the electric power station imeni Malenkov in Sredne-Chirchikskiy Rayon, construction of which began 3 years ago, are not yet completed.(45)

Kirgiz SSR

In spite of some successes, rural electrification in Kirgiz SSR is being expanded very slowly, and plans for rural electrification are not being completed year after year. Last year, only eight of 25 planned electric power stations were put into operation. As a result, only 158 kolkhozes and 16 MTS were electrified last year.

Most kolkhozes, which do have electricity available, use it solely for lighting and not for agricultural production purposes. Many kolkhozes have the electrical machinery but do not put it to use.(46)

In the Issyk' Kul Lake region, the kolkhoz Buzuchnskaya GES in Novo-Vosnesenovskiy Rayon, Taldy-Suyskaya GES and Korumdinskaya GES in Taldy-Kuyskiy Rayon, as well as the second part of the Pokrovskaya electric power station were completed and put into operation. The Kopchegayskaya GES in Tonskiy Rayon and Chon-Dzhergesskaya in Novo-Vosnesenovskiy Rayon are scheduled to be completed in November 1951.(47)

Tadzhik SSR

During the past 3 years, 64 rural electric power stations have been built in Tadzhikistan (48), and "Tadzhiksel'elektro" plans to put 29 kolkhoz GES into operation in 1951.(49)

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